

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-10 SSM-05 /134 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0092

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 5507

UNCLAS USUN 4670

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, XF

SUBJ: SECURITY COUNCIL: UNEF MANDATE RENEWAL

1. AMBASSADOR SHERER DELIVERED U.S. STATEMENT ON UNITED NATIONS EMERGENCY FORCE RENEWAL ON OCTOBER 22, 1976.

2. TEXT OF STATEMENT:

QUOTE:

THIS COUNCIL HAS ACTED TODAY TO CONTINUE FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR THE ESSENTIAL PEACEKEEPING SERVICES OF THE UNITED NATIONS EMERGENCY FORCE IN THE SINAI. UNEF HAS PLAYED AN INDISPENSABLE ROLE IN HELPING TO MAINTAIN THE CEASEFIRE CALLED FOR BY THIS COUNCIL IN RESOLUTION 338 AND REAFFIRMED IN THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL OF SEPTEMBER 4, 1975. MAINTENANCE OF THE CEASEFIRE, HOWEVER, WAS ONLY ONE ELEMENT OF THE CAREFULLY-BALANCED FORMULATION CONTAINED IN RESOLUTION 338. IN RENEWING UNEF FOR AN ADDITIONAL YEAR, WE MUST REMIND OURSELVES IN THE MOST URGENT TERMS THAT NEGOTIATION OF A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE WAS THE ULTIMATE PURPOSE OF THAT RESOLUTION.

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IN WELCOMING THIS RENEWAL, THE UNITED STATES WISHES

TO REITERATE ITS COMMITMENT TO A DETERMINED EFFORT TO ACHIEVE AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST ACCEPTABLE TO ALL THE PARTIES. IN THIS REGARD, I WOULD RECALL THAT SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER SAID ON SEPTEMBER 30 IN SPEAKING TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY: "THE UNITED STATES WILL DO ALL IT CAN TO ASSURE THAT BY THE TIME THIS ASSEMBLY MEETS NEXT YEAR IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO REPORT SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TOWARD A JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST." THAT PLEDGE IS EQUALLY APPROPRIATE IN THE CONTEXT OF THIS COUNCIL'S DELIBERATIONS TODAY.

THE PERFORMANCE OF THE UNEF COMMAND IN RESPONDING TO ITS EXPANDED RESPONSIBILITIES DURING THE PAST YEAR HAS BEEN EXEMPLARY IN EVERY RESPECT. THE TERRITORIAL SCOPE OF ITS ACTIVITIES SUBSTANTIALLY WIDENED AS A RESULT OF THE AGREEMENT OF SEPTEMBER 4, 1975. IN ADDITION, AS THE SECRETARY-GENERAL NOTED IN HIS REPORT, UNEF HAS TO AN INCREASED EXTENT BEEN CALLED UPON TO EXERCISE ITS GOOD OFFICES TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THAT AGREEMENT WHICH MIGHT OTHERWISE HAVE POSED DIFFICULTIES. WE WERE FORTUNATE THAT DURING THIS CRITICAL PERIOD THE UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING FORCES IN THE MIDDLE EAST WERE ABLY LED BY LT. GEN. ENSIO SIILASVUO. OUR APPRECIATION GOES ALSO TO LT. GEN. BENGT LILJESTRAND FOR HIS EFFORTS AS COMMNADER OF UNEF DURING THE PAST 14 MONTHS.

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL HAS NOTED IN HIS PREPORT THAT UNEF HAS ENJOYED THE FULL COOPERATION OF THE PARTIES CONCERNED IN DISCHARGING ITS COMPLEX AND VITAL RESPONSIBILITIES. WE WOULD LIKE TO PAY TRIBUTE HERE TO THE CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT IN WHICH BOTH SIDES HAVE APPROACHED THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES IN FULFILLMENT OF THE CEASEFIRE AND SUBSEQUENT AGREEMENTS.

WE ARE PARTICULARLY GRATIFIED TO OBSERVE THAT THE SECRETARY-GENERAL HAS BEEN ABLE THROUGH JUDICIOUS MANAGEMENT TO REDUCE THE UNEF BUDGET FOR THE COMING YEAR WITHOUT SACRIFICING ITS OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS IN ANY WAY. I HEARTILY CONGRATULATE HIM AND HIS STAFF FOR THIS ACHIEVEMENT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, ARMISTICE, SPEECHES, UNGA RESOLUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976USUNN04670
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760398-0247
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761021/aaaaashr.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUN 2004 by DuboseBM>; APPROVED <05 JAN 2005 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECURITY COUNCIL: UNEF MANDATE RENEWAL
TAGS: PFOR, XF, UNSC, (SHERER, ALBERT W JR)
To: STATE
CAIRO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006